

That is why it is essential for us to engage in this ceremony and to participate and recognize that this is an ongoing battle to fight against those who would kill their fellow human beings indiscriminately at times, and at other times kill them simply because of their race or ethnic background.

I am very pleased to be here presenting this resolution, because this event is something that we should all participate in every year to remind us of what can happen if we let our guard down, and if we assume that we have conquered evil. Evil will always be with us, and we must continually fight it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 350.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING AUTHORITY TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF PERMITS

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4826) to extend through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4826

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; 114 Stat. 2594; 117 Stat. 1836; 119 Stat. 2169) is amended by striking "March 31, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4826, to authorize an extension

of the Army Corps of Engineers' section 214 program. Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 allows the Army Corps of Engineers to accept and expend funds provided by non-Federal public entities to hire additional personnel to process regulatory permits.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4826 is urgently needed since authority for this program expires on March 31 of this calendar year. If this program expires, the corps will have to fire some regulatory personnel, reducing its ability to process permits in a timely manner.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has heard from Members on both sides of the aisle supporting this section 214 program. H.R. 4826 is nearly identical to section 2003 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, which passed the House on July 14, 2005 by a vote of 406-14.

While the other body has not yet acted on the Water Resources Development Act this year, I am hopeful, in the wake of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, they will move quickly to pass the bill providing for the water resources needs of the Nation. But because the authority for section 214 program is expiring, it is necessary to move this piece of legislation separately.

I thank Representative BAIRD and our colleagues from the western United States for introducing this bill, and I urge all Members to vote in favor of H.R. 4826.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to my good friend and subcommittee chairman, Representative JIM DUNCAN, on the passing of his 89-year-old mother, Ms. Lois Swisher-Duncan. I want JIMMY and his wife, Lynn, and the entire Duncan family to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them. It is my prayer that God brings peace to each of their respective hearts during the days ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of H.R. 4826. This bill extends through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend the funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to process permits under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899. This program is popular and well received, particularly in the northwest part of our country.

I congratulate my committee colleague, Mr. BAIRD, for his attention to this issue and for securing today's consideration of this bill. I can think of no other Member who has served his local and regional issues with more enthusiasm and effectiveness.

The language in H.R. 4826 is similar to language contained in H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, which passed the House on July

14, 2005, by an overwhelming vote of 406-14. The difference between the language contained in this bill and that contained in the comprehensive Water Resources Development Act is that this provision only extends the program for 9 months. The water resources bill is a full 12 months longer, but 9 months is all the Senate would agree to. However, this bill should likewise receive strong support.

Today's consideration of one section of the larger Water Resources Development Act should not be viewed as an indication that the larger bill will not be enacted this year. I remain optimistic that the other House of Congress will soon consider this vital legislation, particularly in light of the vital role of flood damage reduction, navigation, and storm damage reduction projects in protecting lives and property and enhancing economic well-being.

The tragic events associated with Hurricane Katrina indicate how important our water infrastructure truly is. However, the Senate is not likely to act on the broader legislation before the Secretary's authority to accept funds expires March 31, in just a little over 2 weeks from now. By providing this extension, the program can continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and the gentleman from Louisiana as well, and want to begin by extending my condolences to JIMMY DUNCAN and his family at the loss of Congressman DUNCAN's mother.

I rise today to support H.R. 4826, a bill to extend section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 until December 31 of this year, 2006. This is a commonsense bill that will save jobs and continue to promote economic growth.

Section 214 was enacted in WRDA 2000 to permit non-Federal public entities to contribute funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to help expedite the processing of corps permits. This provision has allowed municipalities and ports to move forward with vital infrastructure projects; and in doing so, these entities that are providing funding are given no partiality by the corps in their review of the projects. By funding additional staff to work on specific time-intensive permits, the staff in the corps' budget is freed up to work on the permit backlog.

Let me give an example of this: the Army Corps' Seattle district has been utilizing this authority very well. They have seen their total average review time per project reduced from 804 days

to just 69 days in the first 3 years of implementation. The city of Seattle alone estimates that for \$114,000 spent, they have saved over \$5 million.

□ 1600

This is particularly urgent as the Corps staff have volunteered to assist in Hurricane Katrina response efforts, as well as reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Seattle Corps alone has deployed a total of 233 civilian and military staff, or approximately 29 percent of their staff, to these areas, and that leaves a limited number of staff to handle the urgent needs of local areas.

It is during times of emergency response that expedited processes such as 214 become particularly vital in continuing to support regional growth and economic need.

Let me underscore a few points. Section 214 was extended last year unanimously as H.R. 3765 in both the House and the Senate, and is currently set to expire on March 31, 2006. That is the need we face today. An extension of the provision was also passed in the House WRDA bill in 2005, and a permanent extension is included in the other body's WRDA bill. Unfortunately, WRDA is not likely to pass both Chambers before March 31 when the provision expires, so we are seeking an essential short-term extension until the end of this year.

This provision is absolutely vital to Corps activities. Although the authority exists for all regions, it has been utilized primarily in the Pacific Northwest by the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, the city of Seattle, the Port of Los Angeles, as well as the city of San Diego, and by public entities around Sacramento due to the huge backlog of Corps permits in those regions. In addition, it has been utilized by a number of ports in my home district along the Columbia River.

In the Pacific Northwest, we have seen the backlog of permits with the listing of endangered species grow to over 1,000 permits in the last years, and the residual effects have been harmful to our region's economy, resulting in expensive and costly delays.

Without extension of this authority, the Corps will need to make up the shortfall in funding the analysis of projects either through project delays or layoffs in Corps staff.

I am pleased to have the support of this legislation of all of the House Members representing my home State of Washington, our friends and neighbors in Oregon and Idaho, as well as Members representing California. I want to join my colleagues in thanking Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR, reiterate my gratitude toward Mr. DUNCAN and the gentlewoman, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. I appreciate their leadership. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work performed by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, and my own staff, Katie Stevens, on this issue.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my condolences to Chairman DUNCAN on the loss of his mother. I want to thank the ranking member on the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), and I also want to thank my colleague from Washington State for introducing this very important piece of legislation and I urge its passage.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4826, a bill to extend authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept funds from non-Federal public entities for the consideration of permits under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899.

This language is modeled after language which the House approved last July as a part of H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005. While I remain optimistic that the Senate will soon act on its version of the Water Resources Development Act, the authority of the Secretary that this bill would extend expires on March 31. This bill will continue the program through the end of December, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I have been carefully monitoring the implementation of this authority. While it is very popular for those that have used it, I remain concerned that allowing a regulated entity to pay the costs of its regulator could affect the objectivity of that regulator.

As a track record of implementation develops, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will have an opportunity to review the implementation of this authority and ensure a fair and equitable process.

I support the passage and quick enactment of this 9 month extension.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4826.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1810

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG) at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4944) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4944

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TARIFF PROVISIONS

Sec. 1101. Reference.

Subtitle A—Temporary Duty Suspensions and Reductions

CHAPTER 1—NEW DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS

- Sec. 1111. Chloroneb.
- Sec. 1112. P-nitrobenzoic acid (pnba).
- Sec. 1113. Allyl pentaerythritol (ape).
- Sec. 1114. Butyl ethyl propanediol (bep).
- Sec. 1115. BEPD701.
- Sec. 1116. Boltorn-1 (bolt-1).
- Sec. 1117. Boltorn-2 (bolt-2).
- Sec. 1118. Cyclic tmp formal (ctf).
- Sec. 1119. DITMP.
- Sec. 1120. Polyol dpp (dpp).
- Sec. 1121. Hydroxypivalic acid (hpa).
- Sec. 1122. TMPDE.
- Sec. 1123. TMPME.
- Sec. 1124. TMP oxetane (tmpo).
- Sec. 1125. TMPO ethoxylate (tmpoe).
- Sec. 1126. Certain non-knit gloves designed for use by auto mechanics.
- Sec. 1127. Certain microphones for use in automotive interiors.
- Sec. 1128. Certain footwear.
- Sec. 1129. Amyl-anthraquinone.
- Sec. 1130. Acrylic or modacrylic synthetic staple fibers, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning.
- Sec. 1131. Acrylic or modacrylic synthetic filament tow.
- Sec. 1132. Acrylic or modacrylic synthetic staple fibers, carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning.
- Sec. 1133. Nitrocellulose.
- Sec. 1134. Potassium sorbate.
- Sec. 1135. Sorbic acid.
- Sec. 1136. Certain capers.
- Sec. 1137. Certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.
- Sec. 1138. Certain capers.
- Sec. 1139. Certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid in concentrations at 0.5 percent or greater.
- Sec. 1140. Certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid in concentrations less than 0.5 percent.
- Sec. 1141. Chloral.
- Sec. 1142. Imidacloprid technical (imidacloprid).
- Sec. 1143. Triadimefon.
- Sec. 1144. Polyethylene he1878.
- Sec. 1145. Thiadiazol.
- Sec. 1146. Pyrimethanil.